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ASSISTANT SECRETARY OF DEFENSE
WASHINGTON, D.C. 20301



INSTALLATIONS AND LOGISTICS

From LLNL Files
MLC Records
File = Bikini Agreement
and Actions

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MEMORANDUM FOR THE SECRETARY OF DEFENSE

SUBJECT: Support for Department of the Interior Radiological Survey of Bikini Atoll; DoD Funding Requested (U) - ACTION MEMORANDUM

(U) The Secretary of the Interior letter (TAB A) requests DoD provide a base support ship, two helicopters and airlift in support of a radiological survey of Bikini Atoll and other islands. The Bikini survey is required to enable Interior to avoid disruption of the Bikini resettlement plan, and the potentially serious implications attendant to such disruption. The additional survey of other islands is a longer-range matter.

(U) The enclosed response to Interior presents a workable proposal for the Bikini survey support. It does not include the larger project for the other islands, since the ship is not available for the longer time period. With respect to the Bikini support alone, the cost to Interior on a reimbursable basis would be \$609,000. This aspect has been discussed with Interior and Energy Research and Development Administration (ERDA). Both agencies hold to the position that neither has any funds to pay for the DoD support and that, absent DoD support, no survey can be conducted at this time. The Secretary of the Interior has indicated that failure to conduct the survey could have serious political implications for the United States Government and the Administration.

(C) This brings us to a situation very similar to that encountered in the Bikini cleanup. The Office of the General Counsel then determined that DoD had no existing obligation that would allow use of regularly appropriated funds. It was then decided to use the Contingencies, Defense appropriation, on the basis of the continuing defense interests in Micronesia.

I don't think we should be
out of conty funds - maybe can contain
again after
budget there
again

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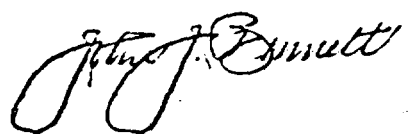
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WITHOUT ENCLOSURES
DEPARTMENT OF ENERGY DECLASSIFICATION REVIEW
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1. CLASSIFICATION RETAINED
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(C) The foregoing rationale for the use of the Contingencies, Defense appropriation is equally valid today (ISA memorandum of 14 December 1968 at TAB B). Therefore, we recommend your approval of the use of the Contingencies, Defense appropriation and the furnishing of the requested Bikini support, with the proviso in the letter to Interior that reimbursement will be required for future operations of this nature. Accordingly, it is recommended that you sign the enclosed letter to the Secretary of the Interior and the memorandum to the Secretaries of Navy and Air Force and Assistant Secretary of Defense (Comptroller).



JOHN J. BENNETT
Acting Assistant Secretary of Defense
(Installations and Logistics)

Enclosures
a/s

CONCUR:

- ASD(ISA) RADM W. J. Crowe (Regional Dir-East Asia-Pacific) TAB C
- ASD(C) T. E. McClary (ASD(C)) TAB C
- DDR&E J. W. McCord (Asst Dir (Test Resources)) TAB C
- OGC M. R. Hoffmann (G) TAB C
- ATSD(AE) BG W. B. Maxson (Deputy ATSD(AE)) TAB C

Prepared by CAPT MEARL GALLUP, OX71903

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Attachment 35

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